

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

December 2, 2021

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Quorum Determination

TPC Vice-Chair Mr. Zahn called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

TPC Members Present:

Mr. Charlie Zahn, Port of Corpus Christi Authority

Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland

Mayor Paulette M. Guajardo, City of Corpus Christi

Judge Barbara Canales, Nueces County

Mr. Valente Olivarez, Jr., TxDOT Corpus Christi District

Ms. Mary Esther-Guerra, Nueces County Assistant Attorney

MPO Staff Present: Rob MacDonald, P.E.; Craig Casper, AICP; Daniel Carrizales; Victor Mendieta; and Yoshiko Boulan

2. Public Comments for items not on the Agenda

Ms. Kathryn Oler, representing the League of Women Voters Corpus Christi Area, commented on the Public Transportation service in this region. The League adopted a position statement that the League supports a public transportation system that provides service to everyone, special services for the elderly, disabled people, and school children, and have proper, well-maintenance vehicles, trained operators, and adequate routes, schedules and shelters. The League is reviewing the data of the public transportation system in this area to see if they are achieving these objectives.

- Comment for an item on the agenda was made at this time by Ms. Judy Telge, and is provided below with Agenda Item 4A.

3. Approval of the November 4, 2021, Transportation Policy Committee meeting minutes

Mayor Guajardo made a motion to approve the November 4, 2021, TPC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Olivarez seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 4 – Inclusion of Additional Transit Projects

Mr. MacDonald presented the FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment 4 to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) on behalf of the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA). CCRTA received additional Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 funding (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities) and awarded four projects to the Rural Economic Assistance League and the Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living, a total of \$696,845 listed in Attachment 1 of Item 4A.

The CCRTA also received additional COVID 19-related funding from the FTA: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, and American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, totaling \$41 million and requested to list these additional fund amounts in the FY 2021-2024 TIP.

This requested FY 2021-2024 amendment 4 was released for the one-month public comment period on November 4, 2021. Ms. Judy Telge, the Director of Development for the Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living (CIBCIL), commented on the additional \$41 million funding the CCRTA received. She thanked the CCRTA for the two projects CIBCIL was awarded. CIBCIL has been a sub-recipient of FTA Section 5310 funding since 2012 and the funding has been used for the transportation needs of seniors and disabled people. She asked if the additional funding of \$41 million that is currently in the pool will become available for another funding opportunity. Mr. MacDonald answered that the CCRTA is the designated recipient of these funds and they will determine how these additional funds are used. Mr. MacDonald said the Corpus Christi MPO would inform the CCRTA about Ms. Telge's comment, and

encouraged her to talk to Mr. Majchszak, CCRTA's Managing Director of Operation, who was present at the TPC meeting.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended the TPC review, comment and approve the DRAFT FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment 4. The Corpus Christi MPO has not received any other public comments, only those from Ms. Telge.

Mayor Guajardo made a motion to approve FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment 4. Mr. Olivarez seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

B. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force

As presented at the November TPC meeting, the Corpus Christi MPO is planning to create a Regional Traffic Safety Task Force. The primary purpose is to address safety issues regionally through a collaboration of agencies and to set regional goals, objectives, and actions. The expected nine tasks are listed in the memo.

The TAC discussed and recommended the TPC approve the creation of the Regional Traffic Safety Task Force and the issuing of an invitation letter to the potential local agencies and organizations from the TPC Chairperson, Judge Krebs.

Mayor Guajardo made a motion to approve the creation of the Regional Traffic Safety Task Force and the issuance of a request letter by the TPC Chairperson. Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

A. Weighting the Relative Importance of the 8 Goals and 3 non-Goal Scoring Criteria

Mr. Casper briefed on the current situation of weighting the relative importance of the 8 Goals and 3 non-Goal Scoring Criteria for the STBG-SA/Category 9 project selection. Both TAC and TPC were requested to complete the pair-wise comparison of 8 goals from the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). These 8 goals were in order based on the combined result of this exercise shown in the memo. The Corpus Christi MPO initiated the process to determine the relative importance of these 8 Goals and 3 non-Goal Scoring Criteria during the November TAC meeting.

The intent of this exercise was to determine regional priorities by allocating points to each goal, for a combined total of 100 points for all 8 goals. More points are assigned for more important goals and less points toward the least important goals. The intended outcome was unattainable because only one submission was made by the TAC and there was a disagreement on the order of importance of these 8 goals.

Mr. Casper requested the TPC's direction for the next step, either: (1) collect TAC's and the public's weight on these 8 goals and 3 non-goal scoring criteria with a revised instruction and bring back the result to January TPC or (2) collect TPC's weighting as is and proceed. Mr. Olivarez recommended collecting TPC's weighting as is. The Corpus Christi MPO will send the exercise to TPC members and bring the results to the January TPC meeting.

Mayor Skurow inquired how the public's input would be collected. Mr. Casper answered that this exercise would be on the Corpus Christi MPO's website and Facebook account.

B. TxDOT 2023 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) MPO Project Selection Process

Mr. MacDonald reported to the TPC that the Corpus Christi MPO is required by TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) Division to nominate Category 2 projects for TxDOT's 2023 UTP by January 11, 2022. The UTP is a 10-year transportation planning and programming document that connects TxDOT's long-range plan (20+ years) and State Transportation Improvement Program (4 years) and is adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission every August. As shown in the memo, the Corpus Christi MPO is forecasting about \$130 million in funding for Category 2 for the next 10 years from FY 2023 to FY 2032, and expecting additional funding from the new federal Infrastructure Bill and rollover monies from prior fiscal years. The Corpus Christi MPO has no official funding amount

provided by TxDOT at this point but once it becomes available, the TAC and TPC will be informed. Due to the very tight schedule, the Corpus Christi MPO staff recommends using the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) project list as the starting point to nominate projects since the TAC and TPC reviewed and prioritized these projects two years ago. The sponsoring agencies need to revisit the scope of their projects and provide more detail and information on readiness, and cost estimates and submit the projects to the Corpus Christi MPO in a similar format for the STBG/Category 9 project application form. The Corpus Christi MPO staff will discuss this item during the next TAC meeting and bring more details to the next TPC meeting.

FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development

Mr. MacDonald provided the FY 2023-2026 STIP/TIP Development schedule provided by TxDOT. The Corpus Christi MPO needs to program Category 2, Category 7 and Category 9 projects into FY 2023-2026 TIP by mid-March 2022. With the ongoing project selection for STBG-SA/CAT 9, the deadline for these CAT 2 and CAT 7 project submissions are very tight.

This item will be also discussed in the next TAC meeting and brought back to the TPC.

Mr. Olivarez commented that it is very important the TAC goes through the projects, especially the project scope and cost estimate for selecting the CAT 2 and CAT 7 projects.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) 2021

Mr. Casper briefed on the newly adopted Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The new bill provides \$567.5 Billion nationally in transportation funding over five years, \$274 Billion more than the previous FAST Act.

The significant changes other than the overall increase in funding are:

- New Highway Formula Program for Carbon Reduction, Resiliency, Bridge, and EV charging
- Highway Grant Program for Bridge Investment, Congestion Relief, Charging & Refueling, rural Surface Transportation, Resiliency, Reducing Truck Emission at Ports, Nationally Significant Federal Lands & Tribal Projects, National Infrastructure Project Assistance, Safe Streets, Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant, Wildlife Crossing, Reconnecting Community, and Prioritization Pilot Program
- The Office of the Transportation Secretary has a total of \$19 Billion in discretionary grant programs
- MPOs are required to use 2.5% of the PL funds for safety and accessibility for multiple transportation modes for people of all ages and abilities and adopt a Complete Street Standards or Policies
- New eligibilities for resiliency projects
- Safety funding under the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) may be used on the non-federal system
- Safe Route to Schools program becomes part of the law and is expanded to include High Schools
- Allow counties to determine local roadway design
- Average 2 years to complete an environmental impact statement (EIS)

Judge Canales commented on the overwhelming opportunities given by this new Infrastructure bill and appealed for regional collaboration efforts to get these grants, possibly through the formation of a regional team to work on prioritizing the projects.

Mr. Casper agreed that a unified effort to determine the regional prioritization is one of the key factors for a successful bid for these grants, and TPC members agreed to work closely together.

6. Member Agency Statements for Items of Community Interest: Upcoming events or holidays and acknowledgement.

None was made or offered.

7. Upcoming Meetings:

A. Technical Advisory Committee:

Regular Meeting:

December 16, 2021

B. Transportation Policy Committee:

Regular Meeting:

January 6, 2022

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.